

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A surface lighting device comprising:
a light guide member having a first side surface for light to enter, and a main surface for light to exit;
a light source facing the first side surface of the light guide member;
a holder for holding the light guide member; and
a stopper mounted on the holder near the first side surface, for preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source;

wherein the stopper is a separate member attached to the holder having a first portion overlaying a portion of the holder and a projecting portion, not parallel to said first portion, and projecting from said first portion along the first side surface of the light guide member.

2. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source is linear.

3. (Previously presented) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the light guide member includes a second side surface for light to enter adjacent the first side surface and

the light source is L-shaped, and facing the first and second side surfaces of the light guide member,

the stopper preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source and preventing the first and second side surfaces from contacting the light source.

4. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source is U-shaped.

5. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source includes a first and a second light sources,

the stopper preventing the light guide member from moving toward the first light source and toward the second light source.

6. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and the second light sources is linear.

7. (Previously presented) The surface lighting device according to Claim 5, wherein the light guide member includes a second side surface for light to enter adjacent the first side surface and

at least one of the first and the second light sources is L-shaped, facing the first and second side surfaces of the light guide member,

the stopper preventing the light guide member from moving toward the L-shaped light source and preventing the first and second side surfaces from contacting the L-shaped light source.

8. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and the second light sources is U-shaped.

9. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper is made of a material having strength to enable the prevention of the light guide member from moving toward the light source at least to such an extent that the surface lighting device is improved in impact resistance by the stopper.

10. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 9, wherein the stopper is made of a metal.

11. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 10, wherein the stopper is made of a shape-memory alloy.

12. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper includes a surface having a reflectance not smaller than 70%.

13. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 12, wherein the stopper includes a surface having a reflectance not smaller than 80% and facing the light guide member.

14. (Currently amended) The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper is attached to the holder close to an end of the first side surface, ~~the stopper including a portion extending inward from a side of the first side surface for contacting and the projecting portion contacts~~ the first side surface at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source.

15. (Original) The surface lighting device according to Claim 14, wherein the stopper is provided near only one of two ends of the light incident surface.

16. (Currently amended) A surface lighting device comprising:
a light guide member having a first side surface for light to enter, and a main surface for light to exit;

a light source facing the first side surface of the light guide member;

a holder for holding the light guide member; and

a stopper near the first side surface, for preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source;

wherein the stopper is a separate member attached to the holder and ~~The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper includes a portion for contacting the first side surface at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source, the portion including a through hole.~~

17. (Currently amended) A surface lighting device comprising:

a light guide member having a first side surface for light to enter, and a main surface for light to exit;

a light source facing the first side surface of the light guide member;

a holder for holding the light guide member; and

a stopper near the first side surface, for preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source; wherein

the stopper is a separate member attached to the holder,

~~The surface lighting device according to Claim 1, wherein~~ the light guide member includes a second side surface for light to enter adjacent the first side surface, ~~and wherein~~

the stopper includes an L-shaped portion having a first and a second sub-portions which are mutually perpendicular to each other, for the first and second side surfaces of the light guide member,

the first sub-portion extending inward from a side of one of the first and second side surfaces, for contacting said one of the first and second side surfaces at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving in a direction that allows said one of the first and second side surfaces to move toward the light source, and

the second sub-portion extending inward from a side of the other of the first and second side surfaces, for contacting said other of the first and second side surfaces at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving in a direction that allows said other of the first and second side surfaces to move toward the light source.

18. (Original) A liquid crystal display device including lighting means for illuminating a liquid crystal panel, wherein

the lighting means is provided by the surface lighting device according to Claim 1.

19. (New) The surface lighting device of claim 1 wherein said stopper comprises a body portion having a U-shaped cross section comprising first and second legs, said first leg comprising said first portion.

20. (New) A surface lighting device comprising:

a light guide member having a first side surface for light to enter, a second side surface adjacent to said first side surface and a main surface perpendicular to said first and second side surfaces for light to exit;

a light source facing the first side surface of the light guide member;

a holder comprising a first material for holding the light guide member; and

a stopper mounted on the holder for limiting movement of said light guide member toward said light source and comprising a body formed of a second material different from said first material, said body including a first portion between said holder and said second side surface and a second portion projecting along said first side surface.